

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- B21
1. (currently amended): A vehicle control method comprising applying vibration to a tire to change friction force between the tire and the surface of a road so as to control the running state of a vehicle wherein the vibration is micro-vibration having a higher frequency than a response frequency of the vehicle.
 2. (canceled).
 3. (previously presented): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein the vibration is applied in at least one of the revolution direction, width direction and load support direction of the tire.
 4. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an amplitude of the vibration is modulated to a range of 1 to 2,000 % of the depth of a tread of the tire or the thickness of a top tread of rubber of the tire.
 5. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a frequency of the vibration is modulated to a range of 1 Hz to 1 kHz.
 6. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a frequency of the vibration is modulated to a range of 20 Hz to 1 kHz.

7. (currently amended): The vehicle control method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the~~an amplitude, a frequency and a phase of deformation of the vibration to be applied to the tire in the load support direction or revolution direction of the tire, is controlled to minimize ~~the~~a rolling resistance of the tire caused by friction between the tire and the surface of a road at the time of running.

8. (withdrawn): A vehicle control apparatus comprising:

vibration generating means for generating vibration to be applied to each tire; and

control means for controlling at least one of the amplitude, frequency and phase of deformation of vibration generated by said vibration generating means.

9. (withdrawn): The vehicle control apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the vibration is micro-vibration having higher frequency than the response frequency of a vehicle.

10. (withdrawn): The vehicle control apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said control means is provided with means of turning on or off said vibration generating means.
